

## DRAFT Language in Opposition to AB 718 from League of California Cities

On behalf of the CITY OF CITY, I write to inform of our opposition to AB 718, which would prohibit local agencies from enforcing laws and ordinances, or otherwise subject to civil or criminal penalties, the act of people sleeping or resting in a lawfully parked motor vehicle.

While a vehicle may be “lawfully parked” in a residential neighborhood or in the parking lot of a business, that does not mean that it is acceptable to have people live there. The issues raised by AB 718 are less about parking, and more about the use of vehicles for human habitation, including sleeping and “resting” in front of existing homes and businesses.

City parking locations whether on public or private property –other than campgrounds—were never intended or designed for residential occupancy. Such uses raise major issues of sanitation as well as the ability of residents to feel secure in their homes and enable the conduct of business activity.

This measure should be rejected. Cities work hard to balance all of the needs of their communities. It is simply not appropriate for the Legislature to attempt to remove local government authority to appropriately protect the public health, safety and welfare of their residents from issues that arise when people live outside of campgrounds in cars and trucks parked on public and private property. These are not easy issues to deal with, but they cannot responsibly be ignored.

What is most needed to combat homelessness is funding for affordable housing and emergency shelters. There are several major pending measures that can help restore funds for affordable housing; we encourage legislators to support additional funding for affordable housing and homeless solutions

[ADD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY EXPERIENCE WITH PEOPLE LIVING IN VEHICLES—ARE YOU REGULATING THEM? HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS?]

Because this measure would undermine local authority to appropriately protect the public health, safety and welfare of our residents, we must oppose AB 718.